

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (original) Hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility produced through a hot rolling and pickling step, comprising, by mass%,

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| C: 0.03 to 0.15%, | Si: 0.8 to 3.0%, |
| Mn: 0.5 to 3.0%, | P: 0.07% or less, |
| S: 0.01% or less, | Al: 0.015 to 0.1%, |
| N: 0.001 to 0.008%, | |

and the balance of Fe and unavoidable impurities, the oxides on the steel sheet surface having, by mass%, an Si concentration of 3.5% or less and an Mn concentration of 3.5% or less.

2. (original) Hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility produced through a hot rolling and pickling step, comprising, by mass%,

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| C: 0.03 to 0.15%, | Si: 0.8 to 3.0%, |
| Mn: 0.5 to 3.0%, | P: 0.07% or less, |
| S: 0.01% or less, | Al: 0.015 to 0.1%, |
| N: 0.001 to 0.008%, and | |
| one or both of Ti: 0.02 to 0.3% and Nb: 0.01 to 0.5%, | |
| Cu: 0.2 to 1.8% and Ni: 0.1 to 2.0%, | |
| Mo: 0.05 to 0.5%, | |
| B: 0.0002 to 0.006%, and | |
| Ca: 0.0005 to 0.005% | |

alone or in combination, and a balance of Fe and unavoidable impurities, the oxides on the steel sheet surface having, by mass%, an Si concentration of 3.5% or less and an Mn concentration of 3.5% or less.

3. (currently amended) Hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility as set forth in claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, characterized in that an average roughness Ra of the steel sheet surface is 3.0 μm or less and a number of pittings of a diameter of 1 μm to 0.3 μm due to the pickling is an average 5 or less in squares of the steel sheet surface when dividing it into squares of 10 μm per side.

4. (currently amended) A method of production of hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility characterized by, in a pickling step when producing the hot rolled steel sheet of claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, dipping the sheet in an aqueous solution having, by mass%, an HCl concentration of 7 to 15%, an Fe ion concentration of 4 to 12%, and a balance of metal ions other than Fe and impurities, at a solution temperature of 80 to 98°C for 40 sec or more.

5. (original) A method of production of hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility characterized by, in a pickling step when producing the hot rolled steel sheet of claim 3, dipping the sheet in an aqueous solution having, by mass%, an HCl concentration of 7 to 15%, an Fe ion concentration of 4 to 12%, and a balance of metal ions other than Fe and impurities, at a solution temperature of 80 to 95°C for a time of a range of 40 sec or more to when the HCl concentration (mass%) x dipping time (sec) becomes 520 or less.

6. (currently amended) A method of production of hot rolled steel sheet excellent in chemical convertibility as set forth in claim 4 ~~or~~ 5, characterized by said aqueous solution including, by mass%, 0.5 to 5% of HNO_3 .